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MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1959 | 8 PAGES | MADRAS | 10 NAYE PAISE

MADRAS GOVERNMENT TO FLOAT Rs 6-CRORE LOAN

Finance Minister presents Rs 139-lakh surplus budget

NO NEW TAXES, NOR ANY RELIEF GIVEN

MADRAS, Mar. 2.

THE Finance Minister, Mr C. Sub ramaniam, today announced the Madras Government's intention to float an open market loan of Rs 6 crores during 1959-60.

Presenting a Rs 139-lakh surplus budget, the Minister, however, stated that this surplus would, more or less, be wiped out by the interim relief of Rs 5 each recently granted to public servants.

The Budget contains no new taxation, nor any increase in the rates of taxation.

Mr Subramaniam gave yet another indication of the Government's concern for the low-paid employees when he announced the decision to extend to the children of village officers from 1959-60 the educational concessions now enjoyed by the children of non-Gazetted Officers, studying in the High School Forms.

The Minister concuded his 60-minute speech with an appeal to all political parties to sink party differences and cooperate with the Government in 'jointly formulating a useful' Third Plan for the State.

Speech in Tamil

Mr Subramaniam took exactly 60 minutes to read the 31-page Tamil Budget speach. A translation in English of the Budget speech was also circulated to the members. This is the first time that a budget speech is made in Madras in the regional language.

The speech was in easy Tamil. The Minister did not use many English words, though English equivalents were given within brackets especially for terms like Higher Technological Institute. The Minister avoided puritanism, and used words like Kilowatt, Ammonium Sulphate, tractors, lorries, pumps, bluegum, wattle, engineering. He, however, gave the Tamil translations of terms like switchgear, common lease shop, salt glazed pipes, common finishing shop, etc., with the corresponding English terms within blackets.

The House cheered the announcement that no new taxes were proposed, and that the surplus in the revised estimates rose to Rs 265 lakhs against the estimated Rs 15 lakhs.

UPWARD TREND IN PRICES

Minister's speech

Mr C. Subramaniam said: This is the eighth budget I am presenting since the finances of this State were entrusted to my care. As against the original estimates of a revenue surplus of Rs 15 lakhs in the current year, the revised estimates for 1958-59 show a revenue surplus of Rs 2,65 lakhs.

Taking the State as a whole, the seasonal conditions have not been quite favourable. The one feature which causes most concern is the upward trend in cern is the upward trend in prices. This trend particularly in the prime necessities of life such as food and cloth, not only causes untold hardship to the common man, but also upsets the very basis of the economic calculations on which the present Plan is framed. Planned development and uncontrolled speculative fluctuations in prices are mutually inconsistent. The recent happenings in the country emphasise the fact that we must endeavour to peg prices down if we should hope to attain the targets laid down in the Plan. The index of wholesale prices of food grains, which stood at 512 in December 1957, had gone up to 569 in December 1958. There has indeed been a fall in the last few weeks out this may just be the normal seasonal fall at the time of harvest. Broadly the upward trend has persisted over the past few years with consequent increase in the cost of living index.

The National Development Council which examined this question recently, resolved that in order to stabilise prices the State should take over the wholesale trade in food grains.

Seed farms

Our schemes for the further improvements of food production are continuing apace. We have not been able to start as many new farms as we had planned. In many farms the yield fell below expectations, and therefore we have started only eight new farms so far this year. We had to abandon a few farms due to unsuitable soil conditions and lack of irrigation facilities, and some more farms may have to be closed down before the end of this year leaving a balance of about 130 farms. The Government has since decided that before increasing the number of farms, we should consolidate the farms already started. It has also been decided that suitable surplus lands which would become available on enforcing the proposed ceiling on land holdings should be utilized as seed farms.

Fertilizers

Arrangements have been made to distribute 1.37 lakhs tons of chemical fertilizers during the current year. Next year, 2.15 lakhs tons of chemical fertilizers will be distributed. It is however clear that we cannot depend entirely on chemical fertilizers but should switch increasingly on to natural manures in combination with chemical fertilizers.

The rural compost scheme is making steady progress. 1.27 lakhs tons of compost were prepared under the scheme in 1957-58 and the production is expected to increase during the current and next year. Under the scheme for improvement of local manurial resources in the Block Development areas, plans are under way to produce 10.48 lakhs tons of compost. Steps are being taken to make compost in smaller villages also and about 2.4 lakhs tons of compost will be produced in 1959-60. The scheme for increasing the supply of green manures continues to be implemented and about 1,342 tons of green manure seeds will be distributed to benefit about 33.4 lakhs of acres.

IRRIGATION

25,000 more acres will benefit

So far 2.2 lakhs of acres have been given irrigation facilities. It is expected that another 25,000 acres will be brought under irrigation in 1959-60. Rs 2.10 lakhs have been set apart in 1959-60 for Major Irrigation Schemes. The most significant item in the irrigation programme now is the Parambikulam project.

Considerable importance has

(Continued on page 4)

Absence of tax relief deplored

REACTION TO BUDGET

By a "Mail" Reporter

MADRAS, Mar. 2.

MR V. K. RAMASWAMI MUDALIAR, I.N.D.C., Leader of the Opposition commenting on the Budget, presented by Mr C. Subramaniam today, said "it is a colourless Budget. There is no mention of any steps to bring down the cost of living and prices, nor is there any tax relief so necessary".

Mr K. Sattanatha Karayalar, Ind., said "there is nothing in the Budget for the ordinary man to feel happy or enthusiastic about. The Government realises it has reached the maximum limit of taxation, and, so no taxes."

Mr M. Kalyanasundaram, Com., "is not satisfied with the Budget." He said "the revenue surplus shown in the revised estimates, is but a reflection of the heaviness of the tax burden imposed. The food situation does not appear to be bright from what has been stated, and in the industrial sector, there is no increase in the employment potential. There is no provision made for help to N.-G.Os beyond the mention of the Pay Commission.

'Illusory surplus'

"The surplus shown is illusory. Taking the Budget along with that of the Centre, one cannot feel happy over the situation."

Mr A. A. Rasheed, Cong.: "The Budget speech is regretfully silent about the crisis in the tanning industry in the South, which calls for urgent relief."

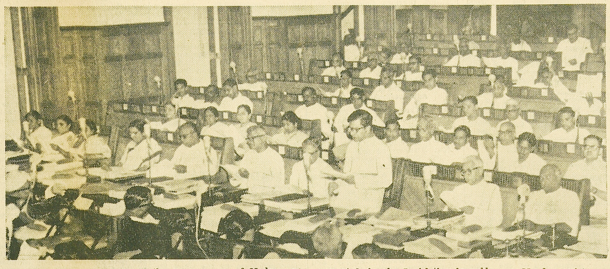
Mr V. V. Ramaswami, M.L.C.: The whole speech is a well got up brief on behalf of the Centre to counteract the agitation in the South that the Centre had not been fair to us. It is a piece of propaganda for the Centre. The increased revenues from sales tax only shows how heavy the burden is, and how incorrect the Government estimates have been.

State Council debate

MADRAS, Mar. 2: The Legislative Council, before which Mr R. Venkataraman, Leader of the House, presented the Budget for 1959-60 this afternoon, will have general discussion on it for five days from Mar. 5, with a break on Saturday and Sunday.

Six-day discussion on Budget

MADRAS, Mar. 2: The Madras Legislative Assembly will have a six-day general discussion of the Budget for 1959-60, commencing from 9 a.m. on Tuesday.



THE BUDGET for 1959-60 of the Government of Madras was presented in the Legislative Assembly on Monday. Picture shows the Finance Minister, Mr C. Subramaniam, reading the Budget speech.

"Unserviceable car fetches Rs 21,300"

MADRAS, Mar. 2: It looks that it is profitable sometimes to sell second-hand cars, remarked the Finance Minister, Mr C. Subramaniam, in the Legislative Assembly today.

He informed Mr M. Kalyanasundaram, Com., that by selling in auction an old Chevrolet car belonging to a Minister, the Government made a profit of about Rs 9,000.

An old car belonging to the Minister for Local Administration, which became unserviceable, was sold in auction for Rs 21,300 against Rs 12,000 which the Government would have got normally.

On the main question, the Minister said a new car was purchased for the use of the Ministers during the current year, and its price was Rs 22,572.33 nP. The car was allotted to Mrs Lourdhammal Simon, Minister for Local Administration.

B. P. KOIRALA WINS

Nepal elections

KATMANDU, Mar. 2: The President of the Nepali Congress, Mr B. P. Koirala, has won the Parliamentary election from his home-town constituency defeating his nearest rival, a Communist-backed independent candidate, by a margin of over 4,000 votes.

He also defeated three others, including a United Democratic Party candidate.

Gen. Subarna Shamshere, Chairman of the Council of Ministers and leader of the Nepali Congress was also declared elected defeating his nearest rival, the United Democratic Party candidate by over 10,000 votes. All his rivals lost security deposit.

BOSE BOARD'S INQUIRY REPORT

ON L.I.C. OFFICIALS' ROLE

Service Commission asked to expedite advice: Pant

NEW DELHI, Mar. 2

MR G. B. PANT, Home Minister, today told the Lok Sabha that the Government had asked the Union Public Service Commission to expedite its advice regarding matters connected with the report of the Bose Board of Inquiry, which went into the role of certain officials in the investments of the Life Insurance Corporation.

Replying to a series of questions, Mr Pant said there had been no delay on the part of the Government in the disposal of the matter considering the fact that the report covered 200 to 300 pages and the officers concerned and the Government had to study it. The report was received on Sept. 21 last and the Govarnment made the reference to the Service Commission on Jan. 27, this year.

"I think the matter was dealt with very expeditiously," he said.

Mr Pant who was replying to Mr Ram Krishan Mr T. B. Vittal Rao and Mr Upakar reiterated that the copy of the report, submitted by the Bose Board, would be placed on the table of the House after the advice from the U.P.S.C. was received and the matter disposed of by the Government.

Show-cause notice

Mr Ram Krishan and 14 others in a jointly tabled question, asked the Home Minister to state "the progress made in taking action against the officers concerned on the basis of the report of the Bose Board of Inquiry."

Mr Pant replied: "After necessary consideration, the Government served show-cause noticas on the officers concerned in the light of the findings of the Board of Inquiry. The replies of the officers have been received and the matter referred to the Union Public Service Commission for advice."

Mr D. C. Sharma: May I know whether any date has been fixed for the receipt of the reply from the U.P.S.C. and what is going to happen after a reply is received?

Mr Pant: After the advice has been received, orders will be passed. No date has been fixed (laughter).

ROCKET TO MOON

New U. S. attempt postponed

CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), Mar. 2: A new U.S. attempt to send a rocket to the Moon was postponed late last night, only minutes before it was due to have been launched from the missile test centre here.

No reasons were given officially for the postponement, but the weather has been poor for most of the day.

It was reported that there might be another attempt to-night, but no time was officially given for such an attempt.

Officials at the range say the postponement was due to "technical reasons," but they declined to fire a rocket with a satellite intended to pass near the moon and then go into orbit around the Sun like the Soviet Sun satellite launched early in January.

"Discoverer" satellite

Meanwhile sporadic radio signals appeared to indicate that the "Discoverer" satellite, launched from Vandenberg Air base on Saturday night, had achieved an orbit, the Air Force announced from its Ballistic Missiles Division at Inglewood, California, late last night.

PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE

Apology of M. O. Mathai accepted

NEW DELHI, Mar. 2.

THE Privileges Committee of the Rajya Sabha has recommended that the House should proceed no further in the matter of breach of privilege raised against Mr M. O. Mathai, former Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, "in view of the regret expressed and unqualified apology tendered by Mr Mathai".

The report of the Committee was presented to the Sabha today by the Chairman of the Committee, Mr S. V. Krishnamurthi Rao.

The charge of breach of privilege against Mr Mathai had bean raised by Mr Bhupesh Gupta and some other members in respect of certain remarks made by Mr Mathai in his letter of resignation to the Prime Minister. The issue was referred to the Privileges Committee by the Chairman.

The Committee, in its report, said that on an inquiry from the Secretary of the Sabha about the privilage motion, Mr Mathai on Feb. 22, had expressed his regret, and offered his unqualified apology.

In his letter, Mr Mathai said: "I deeply regret that certain remarks contained in my letter of resignation addressed to the Prime Minister referred to in your communication have given the impression that I meant to cast aspersions on Parliament. I should like to assure the Committee that it was never my intention to do so. Since my remarks seem to have given such an impression, I offer my unqualified apology for the same."

The Committee, in its unanimous report, said: "In view of the regret expressed and unqualified apology tendered by Mr Mathai, the Committee is of the opinion that the House will serve its own dignity if it proceeds no further in the matter. The Committee, therefore, recommends that no further action be taken by the House in that matter."

No new industrial estates to be started

PLANNING COMMISSION'S DECISION

TRIVANDRUM, Mar. 2.

MR K. P. GOPALAN, Minister for Industries, today said during question time in the Assembly that the Planning Commission had taken a decision not to start more industrial estates.

But, he added, the Kerala Govarnment had decided to approach the Planning Commission to reconsider this decision. There were at present five industrial estates in Kerala.

Mr K. C. George, Minister-in-charge of Forests, told a questioner that the Government was aware that the Union Railway Ministry's decision to import timber sleepers from abroad had caused some hardship to the timber industry at Kallai in Malabar.

The Union Government had, in reply to representations made, pointed out that the price quoted by the merchants at Kallai was high and that was why it had to import sleepers from Australia.

Mr George said the Government did not propose to open more fair price shops as it was of the view that the existing number was adequate.

Govinda Menon's speech

Mr K. A. Balan, Com., asked the Chief Minister, Mr E. M. S. Nimbudiripad, during question time whether a speech made by Mr Panampilli Govinda Menon, Congress leader, aimed at turning the Government officers against the present Government, had come to the notice of the Government, and if so, what steps it had taken to draw the Prime Minister's attention to it.

The Chief Minister said some such reports published in a section of the Press had come to the notice of the Government but no steps had been taken on it.

Replying to supplementaries, he read a passage from a Malayalam daily which quoted Mr Govinda Menon as having said that officers who danced to the tune of the Communist Government should realise that another Government would come into existence in this State and they would have to answer it.

Mr M. Narayana Kurup, P.S.P., asked whether the Government had made investigations to ascertain the correctness of such reports in the Press.

The Chief Minister said they had also got reports from the C.I.D.

Mr Pattom Thanu Pillai, P.S.P., asked whether it was the intention of the Government that the officers should dance to the tune of the Communist Party.

Govt's policy

The Chief Minister said the Government's policy was that the officers should not favour any party and that they must stop what they were doing during the Congress and P.S.P. regimes.

Mr Thanu Pillai, who was the Chief Minister in the P.S.P. Government in Travancore-Cochin, asked whether the Chief Minister could point out one instance of the P.S.P. Government doing anything unfair.

Mr V. R. Krishna Ayyar, Minister in charge of Police, intervening, said he remembered to have seen a letter written by a P.S.P. member to the then Chief Minister asking that a particular Sub-Inspector should be transferred as it was essential in the interest of the party.

Mr Thanu Pillai asked whether the Minister could say what the Government did.

Mr Krishna Ayyar said he did not remember what the Government did in the matter.

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LAC WAX	...	...	1 lb.	2.83
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ROYAL VERMILLION	...	...	1 lb.	5.52
I.V. SUPERIOR	...	...	1 lb.	2.29
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4.	GEORGETTE & CREPE ALL OVER PRINTED SAREES	6 yards	Rs.	25.00	13.00
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CALENDAR—MARCH 1959

		Sun A.M.	Sun P.M.	Moon A.M.	Moon P.M.
Tue	3rd	6 25	6 18	1 8	12 58
Wed	4th	6 24	6 18	2 3	1 54
Thu	5th	6 24	6 18	2 57	2 49
Fri.	6th	6 23	6 18	3 47	3 43
Sat.	7th	6 23	6 18	4 34	4 37
Sun.	8th	6 22	6 18	5 18	5 26
Mon.	9th	6 21	6 19	6 1	6 16

PHASES OF THE MOON
Mon. 9th New Moon 4-21 P.M.

MADRAS TEMPERATURES (C)
Monday

	(M)	(N)
Maximum	32.9	30.6
Minimum	22.9	22.3
Humidity	78%	84%

TWO BUDGETS

Madras

CONFIRMATION was coming very early in his budget speech to the Madras Legislature from the Finance Minister of the assurance given a year ago "that there will be no need for the levy of any new taxes in the next year" for he told an expectant House that "the estimates for 1959-60 have been framed without any proposals for additional taxation". Only the future will show how true a prophet Mr C. Subramaniam is, for a year ago he also asserted "the position will go on improving in the next four or five years, and this is possible because of the constructive and far-sighted policy, though at times unpopular, adopted by the State in the matter of taxation". In view, however, of the weight of the burden imposed by the Union Finance Minister, especially on road transport, the State Finance Minister might consider some relief for an industry which is, admittedly, the highest taxed in the country, if not in the entire world.

The Minister's speech radiates a confidence which he bona fide feels, that his past policy is now paying off, but there is also a sense of realism that there are certain aspects of the life of the State, and the country, which require careful watching, and in fact definite steps to prevent a situation arising which will have the effect of undermining the progress which is being made. One of these matters concerns food, and the Minister was at pains to explode a myth which seems to have been created that the past year has been an exceptional one as regards seasonal conditions, and therefore of food production. He quite frankly admits that agriculturally the current year is not as prosperous as had been expected, if the food forecasts do show production at a slightly higher figure than in last year. There is certainly, in the light of his remarks, no ground for undue optimism that the State is yet by any means out of the wood, and it will certainly, as he said, require greater endeavour on the part of all to improve matters.

Prices also he mentioned with some concern, particularly the trend to rise, especially of food and clothing, as a threat to the basis of planning, and his appeal that recent happenings in the country should stimulate them to peg prices if they hope to attain the targets laid down, must commend itself not only to the Government of Madras but to the Union, and all other State Governments, for the vicious spiral of wages and prices chasing each other is the bane, as he said, of the economy of the country. The basic issue is concerned with the food production of the State, and every effort must be made to bring about substantial increases, and also of commercial crops. The steps he outlined as being taken by the Government should help towards the ends in view, especially those for the expansion of irrigation and power projects, but the utilisation of the water resulting from these projects must be put to the fullest use, much greater emphasis has to be put on better seeds, and the greatest expansion of all plans for the production of fertilisers, whether natural or artificial. In time the Government will have to think seriously about guaranteed prices.

In his review of industrial expansion, the Minister gave some very interesting figures showing what has been accomplished, and in every instance there was progress, but any tendency towards complacency that everything is going well, was most effectively dampened when he added "figures are indeed satisfactory, but there can still be no difference of opinion amongst us that the pace of industrialisation is not rapid enough and that our objective should be to accelerate the pace further." In every other department the Minister spoke of good progress, but also warned of problems which have to be overcome, and the solving of which depends on the unity and cooperation of the people. The figures of income and expenditure which he gave certainly show that in the past two years there has been conservatism in estimating, for the results have been better than anticipated. It is a good fault, and while the estimates for the coming year show substantial increases in many directions with the same level of taxation, if the development which is expected materialises there is no reason why the trends of recent years should not be continued. With the economy of the State in such a sound condition there is no reason to doubt that the proposed loan the Government intends to float for a mere Rs 6 crores will be taken up very quickly.

The Union

The one hundredth budget of the Government of India, presented by Mr Morarji Desai, is marked by no little address and ingenuity. The Finance Minister had inherited from his predecessor a national economy which had proved itself vulnerable in many respects, with prices that were increasing, production that was falling, and exports that were decreasing. As he said in his speech, the enormous demands made by the Five-Year Plan exercised their own consequences. There was little room for him in which to manoeuvre. It was only possible for him to put a bold face upon the matter, and do the best he could under the circumstances. Though his proposed measures of taxation are meant to cover only a fourth of the total revenue deficit, which is the alarmingly large figure of about Rs eighty-two crores, some of them are vexatious, and harmful, like those which must make road transport even more costly than it already is. But, this and a few other disfigurements excepted, he has done what he could do in a difficult situation.

The most objectionable of his proposals is perhaps that to raise the duty on diesel oil. When this is considered in relation to the increase in the levy on motor tyres, it becomes obvious that road transport which, despite the hostility of the administrations, has been rendering a distinct national service will become dearer. This is a matter which affects the common man. It seems that Mr Desai's proposals will serve in some way to implement the oblique threat uttered by the Railway Minister when, in presenting the railway budget, he said that as the earnings of the railways from the freight traffic had fallen because of intense competition from road transport, remedial steps should be taken. The proposed levies can only be interpreted as an attempt to penalise business efficiency and enterprise. Everybody knows why transport by lorries and (in the case of passengers) buses is popular. It is because it is quicker, less, if not wholly, subject to the vagaries of a bureaucracy. The railway system, on the other hand, is slow and cumbersome. Yet it is this form of transport that the Government proposes to patronise to the injury of its cleverer, more beneficent and hitherto more successful rival. It cannot too adequately be stressed that road transport, instead of being penalised, deserves greater encouragement.

Perhaps the most striking of Mr Desai's intentions is the simplification of the corporation tax structure. He proposes to abolish the wealth tax on companies and the excess dividends tax. The first levy has been fiercely criticised, and its demise will be welcomed, for it prejudiced the formation of capital and hindered industry. In the place of these two imposts, Mr Desai would impose income-tax at twenty per cent and super tax at twenty-five per cent. It may be argued that what has been done is only to abolish the wealth tax in name and introduce it in substance into the system of what may be called conventional corporate taxation, where it cannot be assailed as Dr Kaldor's suggestion could be and was. Mr Desai's own calculation is that the yield from the new tax of forty-five per cent will be the same as from the levies it replaces. It is, of course, satisfactory in principle that the obnoxious wealth tax should be abolished, and the proposed change will simplify the procedure in many respects. But there is a clear case for a reduction, if not altogether total abolition, of the new income-tax and super-tax if the need for the expansion of industry in the private sector is to fructify.

It is possible to hold two opinions on the wisdom of the proposed decrease in the expenditure on defence. It is, on the face of it, regrettable that such a large proportion of the national budget should be devoted to a non-developmental item. But it is also undeniable that the defence of the nation is vital. This is an issue with political overtones and implications. On a balance of considerations, including in this the certainty that India does not intend to attack any other country, and the promise made by many American statesmen that they would rush to India's help if their military assistance to other nations were misused, the proposed reduction in the defence expenditure will be welcomed. It is a gamble which the Government may be said to be justified in taking.

Though the Plan dominates the budget, the revenue from income-tax and the corporate taxes has not increased at the rate it should when it is considered that public investment has greatly expanded. There has been an increase neither in individual incomes nor in the output of goods. Yet civil expenditure has continued to grow, and the cost of administration has become greater than before. It is necessary that it should be reduced by the exercise of rigid economy. If, moreover, food production is improved the dire significance of the increase in the budget deficit may be lessened. There are other sources of weaknesses in the national economy, as the budget has revealed them, the growing reliance on assistance from abroad and the fact that internal savings have reached their term. A remedy lies in the Finance Minister's call for "greater efforts and more sacrifices by the community for ensuring a better future for the country." It should only be added that, while a better future should be planned for, it is also necessary to ensure a reasonably happy present.

Worker rescued from jaws of death

"Mail" News Service

HYDERABAD, Mar. 1: A young railway electricity worker, who accidentally fell on Saturday from a 200-foot high coal structure in Lallaguda and perilously perched upon a wooden structure 80 feet from the ground, was rescued from the jaws of death by the Darussalam Fire Brigade Squad. He was admitted to the Lallaguda Hospital, for treatment for shock.

Anand, the worker, it is stated, climbed to the top of the coal structure to attend to some work but having received a shock, he fell from there. He was, however, able to catch hold of the edge of a foot-long plank that was 80-foot high. The huge crowd that collected there could do nothing to save the dangling man. The Central Railway authorities sent an S.O.S. to the Fire Brigade Station in Darussalam. Mr Sharma, Regional Fire Officer, at once despatched a Rescue Squad headed by Mr Mahomed Hayat, Staff Officer. The Squad Leader displayed great skill and cool courage in getting the worker safely back to earth.

FAMILY PLANNING & ROMAN CATHOLICS

Conscientious objections

THE Most Rev. Dr Louis Mathias, Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore, writes:

The District Medical Officers are required by the Director of Medical Services "to furnish a list of names of Women Assistant Surgeons who have expressed conscientious objection to be trained in Family Planning Technique and to serve in Family Planning Clinics; in these cases the Women Assistant Surgeons should be requested to adduce full reasons for their conscientious objection".

I am surprised at the Director of Medical Services asking for "full reasons for the conscientious objections" of conscientious objectors. Conscientious objection by its very definition is matter of conscience, and one would have thought it should be enough for a conscientious objector to state his objection as a matter of conscience for Governments to accept it in full satisfaction. When under the law of compulsory military service a citizen declines to enter the army on conscientious grounds, he is not asked to state the reasons for his conscientious objections; his declaration that he objects to military service as a matter of conscience is taken as sufficient and he is given the relief he prays for. Similarly when a parent objects to his child receiving religious instruction of a particular religious denomination he is not asked to adduce full reasons for his conscientious objection. In either case the reason is plain and simple—a matter of conscience. And Governments having recognised the right of conscience in this matter of family planning are precluded from asking for full reasons for exercising the right of conscience in this matter.

The reasons

Not that there are no reasons for this conscientious objection to the artificial birth-control methods of family planning. For Catholics they have been stated more than once in my letters to Government on the subject. They are repeated here as follows for the ready information of Government.

A. It is forbidden by Natural Law because:

1. The nature and purpose of sex is to pass on life, and contraceptionists endeavour to make the primary effect, procreation, impossible.

2. Thus it is immoral and intrinsically wrong because it frustrates the natural order of the sex process and prevents the natural consequence of the act as a dagger or a poison acts against nature when used to put an end to life.

3. It is suicidal for it tends to destroy the human race preventing the natural tendency of the human race to perpetuate itself.

4. It goes against the very nature of marriage, the nature of which is the procreative intercourse of husband and wife.

5. It leads to clandestine immorality both in and out of marriage life.

6. It is harmful both to society and to the nation.

Sacrament

B. It is forbidden by Divine Law as Catholics conceive it, because we maintain that the Law of God is written in the hearts of men, that conscience utters its own testimony and that there is no witness so terrible, no accuser so powerful as conscience that dwells within us. Now for us Catholics:

1. Marriage is a Sacrament instituted by God with the primary object of procreating, and all ways and means with the purpose of preventing such object are sinful as they resist the Law of God.

2. The clear design and will of God in the institution of marriage is primarily the procreation, and contraceptives go against God's designs and will, and the user or the supplier sins against God's Holy Will.

C. Against the Ecclesiastical Law:

Based on natural and positive Divine Law, the Church rightly condemns birth control through contraceptives because it is an immoral action which cannot be used, without committing mortal sin; even to promote the most laudable and very good results, the use of evil means is not justified.

"Sinful"

To ask a Catholic to act against these principles is to ask him to act against his religion, his conscience. To require from him that he connive at birth control, direct abortion, direct sterilisation, artificial insemination, euthanasia, that he promote, foster, spread or teach such practices is to require from him that he act against his religion, against his conscience. To request his aid in the performance of such practtces is to request him to lend his help to actions which he knows to be sinful. It is to violate his freedom to live according to the tenets of his religion, to violate his fundamental right to religious freedom.

I hope this statement of reasons for the conscientious objections of Catholic doctors and nurses to take any part or lot in the use of all methods of family planning except the "safe period" method which does not involve the use of contraceptives, will be taken as being given on behalf of all Catholic doctors and nurses in Government service.

While congratulating the Government on its statesmanship in allowing conscientious objections to artificial family planning methods, may I ask them not to taka away with one hand by asking for full reasons for conscientious objectious objections what they have given with another hand.

Madras Government Budget

Minister Subramaniam explains new schemes

(Continued from Page 1)

been given to Minor Irrigation. It is proposed to implement during 1959-60, 1,200 works at a cost of Rs 84 lakhs. Out of these 1,200 works, 595 works are those started during this year and the balance of 605 are new works to be started in 1959-60. It is proposed to install 600 filter-point wells and to give a loan of Rs 2,500 on each filter-point. Rs 20 lakhs is being provided under the new well-subsidy scheme. We propose to spend a total sum of Rs 1,18 lakhs on all minor irrigation schemes together.

Cattle development is indispensable for agricultural improvement and a good deal of attention is being given to this sphere also. Four more Key Village Centres will be started in 1959-60. We have set apart Rs 8 lakhs for these Key Village Centres in 1959-60.

Four more Artificial Insemination Centres will be started in the coming year. Twelve Supplementary Extension Centres will be started through each of which 50 high grade bulls will be distributed to ryots at a total cost of Rs 12 lakhs.

Rs 4 lakhs have been set apart for the cattle farm at Chettinad, and Rs 1 lakh for the improvement of the cattle farm at Orathanad, Rs 4 lakhs has been set apart for the Poultry Development Scheme, and Rs 21 lakhs have been provided for the improvement to the Madras Veterinary College.

Under the Madhavaram Cattle Colonisation Scheme, facilities have been provided for maintaining 2,000 heads of cattle. Rs 40 lakhs is being provided in 1959-60 for this scheme. We have set apart Rs 18 lakhs for certain other dairy schemes.

The schemes for the development of forests are going ahead according to Plan. Rs 31 lakhs has been provided for the schemes in 1959-60. Rs 21 lakhs has also been set apart for soil conservation schemes.

Under Fisheries, schemes costing Rs 27 lakhs have been proposed to be taken up during 1959-60. The most important of the schemes is to build 30 Pablo boats and to sell them at reduced rates to the fishermen.

The Community Development and National Extension Services have so far been extended to 176 Blocks. 9,300 villages and 155 lakhs of people have benefited from this programme. It is proposed to extend this scheme to 34 more blocks by the end of 1959-60. Rs 368 lakhs has been provided.

Detailed proposals are under consideration to give a new shift that cooperative agencies may be that cooperative agencies may ba transformed into multi-purpose societies in order to cater to the various agricultural needs of ryots. As against a total credit of Rs 13.5 crores in 1958-59. Rs 16 crores will be provided in the next year. Cooperative credit will be available in 85 per cent of the total number of villages and for 45 per cent of the population. Provision has been made to start 100 new agricultural banks, 200 small-sized societies and four land mortgage banks.

We also propose to start in the year six new Primary Marketing Societies and one 'Apex Market Society. The programme for 1959-60 contemplates the opening of six Primary Marketing Societies and the construction of 65 new godowns. Fifteen new cooperative farming societies are being started in the current year and five more societies will be started in 1959-60. 320 persons will be trained in two new Cooperative Training Institutes to be started during 1959-60.

INDUSTRIES

Good progress

The total capital invested on the Neiveli Project by the end of 1957-58 was Rs 10.67 crores, and a further sum of Rs 6.5 crores will be invested in the current year.

A number of factories in the private sector have also commenced production. The Soda Ash Factory at Tirunelveli is expected to commence production in a few months. Negotiations on the rayon silk factory in Coimbatore district are over, and the construction of the factory may commence soon. The preliminary investigations for the Aluminium Factory at Mettur are nearing completion.

Regarding small-scale industries the electrical goods manufacturing unit and the Common Lease Shop in the Guindy Industrial Estate will be opened soon. The machine tool repair shops at Pollachi and Pettai, the cycle assembly units at Vellore and Tanjore and the quartz unit at Salem are expected to commence production in the beginning of 1959-60. The Industrial colonies at Virudhunagar, Madurai, Erode and Tiruchirapalli are nearing completion. A new Industrial Colony at Tanjore, a Common Finishing Shop at Wall-Tax Road and a salt-glazed pipe unit in South Arcot district will be started in 1959-60.

Rs 14 crores will be spent on Power Development during this year. The total amount set apart for the Power Development for 1959-60 is Rs 11.08 lakhs. The Kundah Project will go into commission in the coming year when enough power will be available for all the anticipated industrial needs. It has also been planned to extend power to 1,000 villages in 1959-60. With this, the number of villages electrified in this State will rise to nearly 9,000.

Technical education

The admissions to the polytechnics have been increased now to 2,160 per year. The number of admissions to the Engineering Colleges has also increased to 1,157. Fifty-seven persons are being admitted each year to post-graduate technical courses. Rs 74 lakhs will be spent on technical education in the current year and Rs 93 lakhs in the next year.

Development of Khadi

It is hoped that by the intensification of the Khadi movement, 26,000 more spinners will be enrolled next year.

The Ambar Charka Scheme is also being expanded. So far 30 Parisramalayas have been opened. By the end of this year, another 19 Parisramalayas will be opened. Twenty more Parisramalayas will be opened in 1959-60. Twelve thousand spinners will be trained and enrolled. Rs 1.40 lakhs has been set apart for Khadi Schemes for 1959-60. The Khadi Commission will subsidise these schemes as usual.

Handlooms

We are providing Rs 1.26 lakhs for the handloom industry in 1959-60 of which Rs 81 lakhs will be towards rebate on sale of goods. Twelve thousand and five hundred handloom weavers will be enrolled in the cooperative fold next year. It is also proposed to construct 230 houses for weavers. Mention may also be made of Rs 2 lakhs set apart for the improvement of silk weaving.

In order to supply weavers with yarn at reasonable prices, a cooperative spinning mill was started at Tirunelveli and has just gone into production. Two more mills are proposed to be started and preliminary works are going on.

Housing

Rs 1,89 lakhs has been set apart for all housing schemes in 1959-60. The provision for Slum Clearance schemes is Rs 60 lakhs. This scheme which is now being implemented only in Madras City, will be extended to Madurai, Coimbatore, Tiruchirapalli and Salem Municipalities in the coming year.

Adequate provisions have also been made for housing schemes outside the Plan.

A significant development on the maintenance of roads is that in 1959-60 the Government will complete the programme of taking over of all major district roads from the District Boards. As against a sum of Rs 2.25 lakhs set apart for the maintenance of roads in 1958-59, we have provided Rs 2.54 lakhs for 1959-60. Rs 53 lakhs has been set apart as grants to District Boards for the formation of new roads. New works on State Highways will amount to Rs 81 lakhs. Sixteen minor bridges and six major bridges will be constructed during the next year.

In 1959-60, 16 training institutions will be converted into basic, and the balance of 11 will also be converted in 1960-61 to complete the programme as far as training schools are concerned. So far, 2,722 elementary schools have been converted into basic schools and 400 more schools will be so converted in the coming year. The total amount provided for education in the current year is Rs 12.33 lakhs. This will be raised to Rs 13,29 lakhs in 1959-60.

Rs 34 lakhs will be spent on scholarships, Rs 12 lakhs on Boarding Grants and Rs 19 lakhs on midday meals and Harijan Hostels. All schemes which have been taken up for this purpose will be continued in the coming year at a cost of Rs 234 lakhs.

Medical and Public Health

Rs 17 lakhs have been set apart to start 20 more Primary Health Centres in 1959-60. Rs 25 lakhs has been set apart for improving District Headquarters Hospitals.

The improvements to the Madurai Medical College and the Erskine Hospital are going on rapidly with a provision of Rs 41 lakhs for the next year. Rs 17 lakhs has been provided for completing the buildings which have already been taken up in the Madras Medical College.

Rs 50 lakhs will be given as loans and grants on the water-supply and drainage schemes in the Madras City.

Revised Estimates, 1958-59

The Revised Estimates for 1958-59 show that receipts under Revenue Account will be more than what we originally anticipated. The budget estimates placed our income at Rs 63,90 lakhs and our expenditure at Rs 63,75 lakhs. On the basis of data now avalable, the income has been estimated at Rs 69,49 lakhs and expenditure at Rs 66,84 lakhs. As against the surplus of Rs 15 lakhs anticipated, we now expect a surplus of Rs 2,65 lakhs. There will be an increase of Rs 2.95 lakhs under Sales Tax and Rs 28 lakhs under the Motor Vehicles Tax, but under the Agricultural Income Tax as extended to non-plantation areas, our receipts will be less. The Government of India has intimated that our share in the Central Taxes would be more than what we had expected.

When we presented the Budget for 1958-59 the Government of India had not accepted the recommendations of the Finance Commission regarding the rate of interest on Central Loans. It has since accepted a modified proposal which will give us relief of about Rs 50 lakhs per annum and this has been taken into account in the Revised Estimate for 1958-59 and the Budget Estimate for 1959-60.

Capital Expenditure

In the Budget Estimate, 1958-59, we had estimated a Capital Expenditure of Rs 9,73 lakhs. Now the estimate has gone up to Rs 12,07 lakhs. The increase has occurred mainly under Irrigation (Rs 1,04 lakhs) and under "Investment for Industrial Development" (Rs 48 lakhs). The expenditure on the development of power is now being incurred by the Electricity Board. It is proposed to give a loan of Rs 10,10 lakhs to the Electricity Board from the State Funds. The expenditure in the current year on Power Development is expected to go up to Rs 14.03 lakhs. The balance of the requirements will be met by the Board from its own resources. The Electricity Board raised a loan of Rs 2,20 lakhs from the public in the current year.

No difficulty is anticipated in our resources position in the current year. 1959-60 will open with a cash balance of Rs 90 lakhs in addition to easury Bills worth Rs 2,00 lakhs. The details of capital and other expenditure have been explained in the Budget Memorandum.

Estimates, 1959-60

The Budget for 1959-60 estimates the income under Revenue Account at Rs 73,08 lakhs and expenditure at Rs 71,69 lakhs. This results in an increase over the Revised Estimates of Rs 3,60 lakhs under Receipts and of Rs 4,85 lakhs under Expenditure. The increases have occurred under various items the details of which are explained in the Budget Memarandum.

It was expected that there will be a surplus of Rs 1,39 lakhs but this will, more or less, be wiped out by the interim relief which we have given recently to the public servants.

Concessions

It was announced in the recent Governor's address that the non-gazetted Government servants and school teachers will be given an interim relief of Rs 5 per month. This will cost the State Rs 1,31 lakhs a year. Since this concession has been given for a portion of the current year, the total expenditure for the current year will increase by nearly Rs 45 lakhs. The cost of this concession has not been taken into account in the estimates mentioned earlier and therefore the estimates have to be modified to that extent. A small part of this expenditure will be reimbursed as a grant from the Government of India. The exact extent of Central assistance will be clear only later.

I wish to announce here that the Government have decided to extend to the children of village officers with effect from 1959-60 the same educational concessions that are now being given to the children of the non-gazetted Government servants studying in the IV, V and VI forms.

Loans and Advances

Rs 18.05 lakhs has been set apart for Loans and Advances in 1959-60. Out of this Rs 8.50 lakhs will be given as loan to the Electricity Board which has a capital programme of Rs 11.08 lakhs in 1959-60. Provision has been made for advancing Rs 63 lakhs to the Corporation of Madras, Rs 68 lakhs to the City Improvement Trust, Rs 1.32 lakhs for water-supply and drainage schemes of the various local bodies, Rs 1.93 lakhs to cultivators, Rs 20 lakhs to handloom weavers, Rs 30 lakhs to co-operative housing societies and Rs 1.31 lakhs under the Community Development schemes.

It is proposed to float an open market loan of Rs 6 crores during 1959-60. We expect that on the basis of the above estimates we will have at the end of 1959-60 a cash balance of Rs 86 lakhs over and above a holding of Rs 2.00 lakhs in Treasury Bills.

Development schemes

For 1959-60, it was agreed at the discussions with the Planning Commission that we might take up works costing Rs 33,62 lakhs. Towards this outlay the Government of India has agreed to give assistance under Loans and Grants to the extent of Rs 18 crores. But in the Budget Estimates, the expenditure on the State Plan for 1959-60 has been put at Rs 34,64 lakhs. Larger provisions have been made mainly for Irrigation and Handloom schemes. Adequate amounts have been set apart for the other heads of development as well.

I wish to emphasize here that if need arises, there may not be any difficulty to provide larger sums to any worthwhile scheme under any head of development. In particular, we will review the progress of work on the Electricity Schemes during the middle of next year and provide additional resources to the extent necessary.

Success can be achieved only if all political parties join together in the common endeavour on a national basis. On many an occasion in the past we, in this State, have demonstrated how, irrespective of party loyalties, a common approach is possible on matters of national importance. I hope that in the great endeavour of national reconstruction, I shall be able to secure the wholehearted cooperation of all political parties, so that we may jointly formulate a useful Plan for the benefit of the people.

President Tito may abrogate Balkan Pact

BELGRADE, Mar. 1: President Tito will tell Greek Government leaders this week that Yugoslavia considers her 1954 Balkan Pact with Greece and Turkey a complete "deadletter," incapable of revival in its old form, informed sources have said here.

Marshal Tito arrives on the Greek island of Rhodes tomorrow for a two-day unofficial visit to Greece and talks with the Greek Prime Minister, Mr Constantine Karamanlis, and other senior Greek officials.

He is at the end of a three-month cruise in his yacht "Galeb" to seven Asian and African countries.

The Yugoslav leader is expected to reject the Balkan Pact as a suitable framework in present conditions even for economic and cultural cooperation among three signatories.

The Yugoslavs are anxious to avoid even the appearance of entanglements with a Balkan Pact structure which could give the Soviet Union further ammunition for attacks on the Tito regime.

Greece and Turkey are members of the North Atlantic Alliance and Yugoslavia's association with them has already been denounced by the Kremlin.

Official Notifications

MADRAS, Mar. 2: Mr Malik Ram Dewan is appointed temporarily as Sports Goods Expert in the Service Centre for the manufacture of Sports Goods in the Industrial Estate, Guindy.

Mr G. Ghatikachalam, Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Vellore South, is posted Deputy Registrar/Marketing Officer, Madras State Handloom Weavers' Cooperative Society, Erode, vice, Mr T. P. Loganathan, transferred.

Mr P. S. Ratnasami Ayyar, Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies on relief from the Peelamedu Industrial Workers' Cooperative House Construction Society, is posted Special Deputy Registrar, Credit and Marketing, Srivilliputtur, vice, Mr V. Thangavelu Pillai, granted leave.

Jatti inaugurates School for Blind near Bangalore

TRIBUTE TO PIONEERING WORK OF ITS FOUNDERS

From Our Correspondent

BANGALORE, Mar. 2.

AN educational-cum-technical institution for blind boys, the first of its kind in Mysore State, was inaugurated yesterday by the Chief Minister, Mr B. D. Jatti, at a function held in the premises of the institution.

Mr Annarao Ganamukhi, Education Minister, presided and Mrs Grace Tucker, Deputy Minister for Education, addressed the gathering.

Situated on a 20-acre plot in Whitefield, 14 miles off Bangalore this residential institution known as "Divine Light School" for the blind, is the outcome of the efforts of the Rev. Fr. Abraham, himself a blind man, and of Mr Martin Pfaff, a young social worker of Vienna.

Dr Samuel Runganathan Chairman of the Advisory Board, welcoming the gathering, said it was their aim to train blind boys in some vocational subjects so that they could become self-reliant, self-confident and self-respecting citizens of the country.

Founder's appeal

Fr. Abraham, Founder and Director, appealed for help and cooperation from the State Government and citizens of Bangalore.

Mr Martin Pfaff, Secretary, presented a short report, and said the present strength of the institution was 16. Besides English, Canarese, Tamil and Telugu were talught to the boys. He requested the Government to improve the water supply in Whitefield.

Inaugurating the School, the Chief Minister said the founders had set a noble example of "selfless service, worthy of emulation." It was estimated that there were about 20,00,000 blind people in India. According to the 1931 census, the Old Mysore had 6,563 blind people and now with a population of over 1,90,00,000 in Greater Mysore, there would be more than 2,50,000 blind people in the State. He was informed that only 0.06 per cent of the blind in the country received any education worth mentioning. "The problem, therefore, is of a colossal magnitude and it cannot be solved without the willing cooperation of the generous-minded public."

He assured that he would do his utmost to extend the needed help to the institution.

I.T.I.'s gesture

Mr N. V. Shenoi, General Manager, Indian Telephone Industries, presented a set of tools for the usa of the School. He said I.T.I. was the first industrial concern in Bangalore to employ a blind person and, at present the factory was having 26 blind people including two women on its rolls. Their turn-out was in no way inferior to any other worker of the factory, and he hoped that other industrial concerns in Bangalore would also employ blind people.

Dr (Mrs) Abraham of Binnypet presented a purse to the School.

Both the Education Minister and his Deputy appealed to the public to extend their help and cooperation for the speedy expansion of the School.

Mr B. Vasudevamurthi, proposed a vote of thanks.

B. R. Sen

CALCUTTA, Mar. 2: Mr B. R. Sen, Director-General, Food and Agriculture Organisation, yesterday left here for Hong Kong on his way to Manila.

Protest against Sales Tax

Hartal by vegetable shops in City

By a "Mail" Reporter

MADRAS, Mar. 2: Vegetable and fruit vendors "went off the roads" today in the City as vegetable and fruit stalls remained closed to protest against the Government's proposal to impose Sales Tax on perishable commodities.

Vegetable and fruit shops in Esplanade, Kothwal Bazaar and other areas were found closed and the hartal was stated to be "successful".

The Madras Fruits Commission Agents' Association has constituted a committee to prepare a memorandum for submission to the Ministers and legislators urging exemption for perishable commodities from sales tax.

Mr T. Kuppuswamy Nayudu is the Chairman of the committee and Mr V. P. Thangavel Mudaliar, Vice-President.

HARTAL IN ERODE MARKET

ERODE, Mar. 2: Vegetable and meat stalls in the daily market here observed hartal today as a protest against the levy of Sales Tax on perishable goods. Stalls of non-perishable goods like coconut also remainad closed as a mark of sympathy. Even betel leaves and flowers were not available and the market presented a deserted appearance.—F.O.C.

In Tirupur

TIRUPUR, Mar. 2: Vegetable and fruit merchants observed hartal today in the Tirupur municipal daily market as a protest against the levy of Sales Tax on perishable goods.—F.O.C.

OBITUARY

P. V. Chalapati Mudaliar

VELLORE, Mar. 2: Mr P. V. Chalapati Mudaliar, 61, former District Collector, died on Friday night at his residence in Sitarama Mudali Street. He is survived by his wife, five sons and four daughters.

Mr Mudaliar was Collector of Cuddapah at the time of his retirement. He was till recently a Railway Honorary Magistrate, and also President of the Mudaliar Association.—F.O.C.

Maxwell A. Difbon

STAMFORD (Connecticut), Mar. 2: Playwright Maxwell A. Difbon, 70-year-old Pulitzer prize-winning author of such plays as "Winterset." "The bad seed." and "Both your houses" died here on Saturday night. He suffered from a stroke at his home here last Thursday.